

# P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

## 2012 FACT SHEET

*The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces in Seattle neighborhoods. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs.*

*The gardens are open to the public to enjoy. Each garden is different and their amenities may include picnic areas, benches, art, flower gardens, educational signage, sustainability demonstrations and children's gardens.*

### PROGRAM DETAILS

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is managed by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods in partnership with the P-Patch Trust, a non-profit corporation. Presently there are 76 P-Patch community gardens, 2,200 plots, and 4,400+ gardeners.

P-Patch gardens have a diverse history and serve diverse needs. The first garden, Picardo Farm, was created in 1973 by a group of community residents and the city of Seattle. Since then, gardens have rapidly grown and continue to do so. Gardens are built on public property owned by various city departments and other public and private owners. Gardens range from small to large, and cooperative style (shared plots) to individual low-income farmers.

Oldest Site: Picardo (2.5 acres)

Largest Site: Thistle (3+ acres)

18 Sites with ADA accessible raised beds

Newest Site: Greenwood Park in Greenwood

Smallest Site: Pelican Tea Collective

Three Market Gardens



### P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM SUCCEEDS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' work, P-Patch community gardens thrive through the dedication of many organizations and through the gardeners themselves.

- 4,400+ gardeners who volunteer more than 21,933 hours annually (equivalent to 11 full-time staff).
- P-Patch Trust Board.
- Solid Ground's Lettuce Link.
- Seattle Tilth.



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## Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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### MORE PROGRAM FACTS

#### P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENS ARE POPULAR

Demand is high; staff is working hard to grow capacity, as well as support other community gardening efforts:

- 1,000+ people on waiting list (as of December 2011).
- Waiting time is between 3 months and 4 years.
- Annual turnover across whole program averages 25%.
- 12+ P-Patches are currently being planned, designed, or constructed.



#### P-PATCH MANAGES SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH, LOW-INCOME, AND UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS

For example, **the Market Garden Program** serves low income and immigrant families living in South Park and Seattle Housing Authority properties to garden and sell their produce to local residents. In 2011, 16 gardeners, speaking 8 languages, collaborated to provide produce in a variety of venues: farm stands, senior centers and in community-supported agriculture (CSA).

#### Garden Fees

Garden plots run in different sizes:

10 x 10 – \$37

10 x 20 – \$49

10 x 40 – \$73

Financial assistance is available for those who can't afford plot fees

In addition to the annual fee, eight hours of volunteer time is required to maintain public areas of the P-Patch.

#### GARDENERS SUPPORT FOOD BANKS

- 40% of gardeners donate at least once a month.
- Many gardens have a designated “giving garden” plot. Its food is for food banks and hot meal programs.
- Gardeners donated more than 20,000 pounds of produce in 2010.

#### GARDENERS ARE DIVERSE

In 2007: 55% were low income.  
20% were people of color.  
48% live in apartments.  
77% had no gardening space where they live.

#### NEW GARDENS OPENED IN 2011—MORE TO COME

With \$2 million from the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, P-Patch community gardens are growing. In partnership with community volunteers, the program leveraged its original funding for four gardens to 20 new or expanded gardens by 2013. Community members also work to develop gardens on their own with support from the P-Patch staff and Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund.

Property	Levy all or partial	Area	Build date	Plot standard	No of families	Location	Ownership	Land Size
Howell Collective		Central	2011	communal	18	16th Ave & E. Howell	Parks Dept.	2000 sf
Unpaving Paradise	Construction	Central	2011	100	37	E. John St & Summit Ave E	Parks Dept.	3000 sf
Greenwood Park		Northwest	2011	100	43	Fremont & N 87th St	Parks Dept.	3000 sf

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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